

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EWWT, PORG, IMCO, UK
SUBJECT: US-UK BILATERAL SHIPPING TALKS RE IMCO: US
MARINE POLLUTION AND TANKER SAFETY INITIATIVES
COUNCIL CHAIRMANSHIP AND BUILDING

1. DURING SUBJECT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS (SEE SEPTTEL)
WITH UK DEPT. OF TRADE OFFICIALS LANCHIN, PRYOR AND
HALL, PROGRESS OF US IMCO INITIATIVES AND RESULTS OF
JUNE MEPC AND INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP DISCUSSED.
BRITISH EXPECT US PROPOSALS WILL BE SUBJECTED TO INCREAS-
INGLY CRITICAL EXAMINATION. MOREOVER, BRITISH ARE CON-
CERNED THAT US PROPOSALS ARE ACCEPTED BY IMCO MEMBER
STATES AND SPEEDILY RATIFIED TO THE EXTENT THAT US
ADMINISTRATION DOES NOT FEEL OBLIGED TO IMPOSE REGULA-
TIONS UNILATERALLY. BRITISH BELIEVE THAT IF US DOES SO,
IT WILL BE THE END OF IMCO AS AN EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL
FORCE. IN LATER MEETING WITH GRAHAM OF GENERAL COUNCIL
OF BRITISH SHIPPING AND INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING
HE STRESSED NEED TO HAVE STUDY OF ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES
OF US PROPOSALS READY PRIOR TO JOINT MSC/MEPC MEETING IN
OCTOBER.

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2. BANK FROM DEPARTMENT INFORMED BRITISH THAT US HAD
DECIDED TO RUN EDWARDS FOR ANOTHER TERM AS COUNCIL CHAIR-
MAN EVEN IF THERE WERE AN OPPOSING CANDIDATE OR CANDI-
DATES. THE SOVIET APPROACH TO THE UK PROPOSING THAT THE
UK RUN LANCHIN FOR CHAIRMANSHIP TO PREVENT PRECEDENT OF
EDWARDS SERVING A FOURTH TERM WAS ANALYZED. LANCHIN

STRESSED UK CONVICTION THAT CHAIRMAN DURING THIS TIME OF CHANGE IN IMCO SHOULD BE FROM A DEVELOPED COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY WITH THE DEPARTURE OF QUEGUINER AS DEPUTY SECRETARY IN SEPTEMBER. HE SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO TAKE SOUNDINGS AMONG OTHER COUNCIL MEMBER STATES REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A UK CANDIDATE AND ANY REACTIONS TO EDWARDS' RUNNING FOR A FOURTH TERM AND WOULD THEN CHECK BACK WITH THE US. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD NOT CANVAS. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE UK WILL NOT PUT FORWARD A CANDIDATE AND WILL SUPPORT EDWARDS. WITHOUT UK, SOVIET OPPOSITION TO EDWARDS WILL BE MUTED.

3. BANK ASKED LANCHIN ABOUT STATUS OF DECISION ON IMCO BUILDING. LANCHIN SAID QUESTION OF PURCHASE OF ALBERT EMBANKMENT SITE WAS WITH MINISTERS AND THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEIR DECISION WHICH WOULD BE OUT BEFORE THE DEADLINE SET BY THE COUNCIL OF JULY 27. DISCUSSIONS REVEALED A PROBLEM, HOWEVER, WHICH MIGHT DELAY MOVING AHEAD ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING EVEN IF UK MINISTERS AGREED TO PURCHASE OF THE ALBERT EMBANKMENT SITE. LANCHIN FEARED THAT UK COULD NOT SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT FOR THE LAND AND CONSTRUCTION UNTIL AT LEAST THE BASIC PRINCIPLES AND PARAMETERS OF A RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH IMCO WERE AGREED. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE IMCO WORKING GROUP FOR THE BUILDING HAS THE AUTHORITY TO APPROVE THE PRINCIPLES AND PARAMETERS AS AGREED BY THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SECRETARIAT AND THE UK OR IF APPROVAL CAN ONLY BE GIVEN BY THE COUNCIL WHEN IT MEETS IN NOVEMBER. WE AND THE BRITISH AGREED TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTION DURING THE NEXT WEEK.

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